

FirstClearing

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Lara, May & Associates Joins First Clearing

Virginia firm becomes First Clearing's latest client focused on growth

St. Louis, MO, April 22, 2015

First Clearing Correspondent Services (First Clearing) announced today that it has welcomed Lara, May & Associates, LLC (LMA) to its portfolio of quality client firms.

Established in 1981 by President **E. Ronald Lara**, CFP®, LMA is based in Falls Church, Va., with offices in Frisco, Colo. Since its inception, LMA has grown to become a well-respected independent wealth management firm in the Greater Washington, D.C., area. In 2015, the firm garnered a seat in the *Washington Business Journal's* Book of Lists as one of the top Securities Brokers and Dealers in the area for a second year in a row.

“We take pride in the growth of our firm over the past three decades,” said **Ron Lara**. “We have a good culture here and one that fosters long-term client relationships. We saw a similar culture with the First Clearing folks we’ve dealt with. They are the type of people we want to do business with and share our value to doing things the right way.”

“Our mission is to provide our clients with comprehensive wealth management services, independent advice and exceptional service,” said **Charles R. Shaw**, CEO of Lara, May & Associates. “By forming an alliance with First Clearing, we can provide our advisors with access to a variety of industry-leading resources, programs, and services that will further this mission. Our goal is to help our clients thrive.”

LMA’s financial professionals have access to First Clearing’s full complement of products, information and technology, as well as the intellectual capital that distinguishes the company as an industry thought leader.

“First Clearing and LMA are truly aligned in terms of values and goals,” said First Clearing **President John G. Peluso, Jr.** “LMA’s ongoing growth strategy is a match with the proactive growth support that First Clearing provides. So is the culture of service excellence that both firms share, as well as our dedication to empowering advisors – to help their clients succeed financially.”

About Lara, May & Associates LLC

Lara, May & Associates (LMA) has provided comprehensive wealth management services since 1981. Our dedicated, seasoned professionals strive for exceptional client service, focusing on putting clients’ best interest first and building long-term relationships. Headquartered in Falls Church, VA, our clients span the U.S. and internationally. In 2007, LMA joined Focus Financial Partners, LLC, the leading international partnership of independent, fiduciary wealth management firms. **www.laramayllc.com**

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About First Clearing

Now in our fourth decade of service to quality, independently owned broker-dealers, First Clearing maintains a leading position in empowering firms, their leaders, and their advisors to compete successfully – to help their clients succeed financially.

Our team of experienced professionals offers some of the industry's best thought leadership and innovative approaches to business advancement. Because of our affiliation with Wells Fargo Advisors, one of the nation's largest brokerage firms, and our parent company Wells Fargo & Company, one of the world's most admired financial services firms and valued brands, we support multiple business models. Our clients enjoy access to vast resources, including: a full range of investment, advisory and banking products; industry-leading research; alternative investments; fixed income, lending, retirement, and trust services; advanced advisor workstation and workflow technologies; risk-management and compliance support; and advisor recruiting services. Financial professionals with our client firms have exclusive access to First Clearing's Growth Accelerator® – a professional-development and practice-consulting program designed to help take an advisor's practice to the next level.

Headquartered in St. Louis, MO, First Clearing is a member of the New York Stock Exchange, NASDAQ, and other major exchanges. **www.FirstClearing.com**

Investment and Insurance products:

NOT FDIC-Insured	NO Bank Guarantee	MAY Lose Value
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